

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The health and safety of all Arkansans is important to the prosperity, happiness, and well-being of our state, families, and communities, and sickle cell disease is a group of inherited disorders that affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that carries oxygen to cells throughout the body; and

WHEREAS: Sickle cell disease generates atypical hemoglobin molecules, which deforms red blood cells into a sickle shape; and

WHEREAS: Symptoms of sickle cell disease include recurring episodes of pain, repeated infections, and low red blood cell count; and

WHEREAS: According to the Centers for Disease Control, sickle cell disease is the most common inherited blood disorder in the United States, affecting approximately 100,000 Americans, and it is estimated that about 1,300 Arkansans have sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS: Sickle cell disease appears in about 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births and 1 out of every 365 African American births; and

WHEREAS: The United States National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration have improved their development of both drug and genetic therapies; and

WHEREAS: Sickle Cell Awareness Month will raise public awareness of this disease; and

WHEREAS: While there is no widely available cure for sickle cell disease, it is critical that those affected by this disease have access to quality, affordable care, and that research of this disease continues to find new treatments;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 2021, as

**SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, in the year of our Lord 2021.



*Asa Hutchinson*  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

*John Thurston*  
John Thurston, Secretary of State